

Mexico



NOTE BOOK



No 69

TRADE MARK

E. W. Nelson

Costa Rica

Nov 13, 1894

Paid Loomis Aug 14 - Sept 14 - 12

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E. W. Nelson
U. S. Dept. Agriculture
Washington
D. C.

Presnt Gov. of Oax. General Gregorio Chavez

Mem.

On my way up to Yacochi from
Yalalag July 4, 1894 - I saw fan palms *Brahea*
at an elevation of 7000 ft. on south face of a cliff
~~near~~ on a spur of Mt. Zempoaltepec on
the west slope & on the day I ascended
this mt. I was surprised to see trees
ferns with stalks a foot to 18 in high growing
among the pines at about 10500 ft elevation
well above limit of the oaks (these latter
were cycads!)

Sept 4 sent check 157⁶⁰ to Frank Barton
#49542 Aug 18 - for July pay

July 13 1894 — Totontepec,

Oaxaca — Two days ago I paid one of the town officials & a very constant church goer here for some tortillas & he finding that I was preparing to leave kept out of sight & ~~that~~ I had to go to his house to get my purchase. Then he only gave me a portion but loaned me a basket to take them away in. ~~Later in the day another boy for the basket & late~~ last eve. he sent a boy for his basket but said nothing about his debt so I told the boy that he could have the basket when the rest of the cakes were brought. Before day broke this a.m. the old rascal came up with the cakes & I gave him his basket. While bargaining with the officials yesterday over the trip today they insisted that I pay them at once or none should go. This a.m. when the men showed up they proved to be the Alcalde & Jupil. We got off at about 8.30, being delayed by an unruly mule getting loose, and wound slowly up the hills to the ridge north of Zempoatlépe which we followed up to an alt. of 9400 ft. or almost to the summit of the Cerro Pelada. Soon after starting I shot a small Trogon & as I brought it into the road a number of its brightly colored feathers floated slowly to the ground. My two packers came up at this moment with eyes glazing with excitement they began hastily gathering the feathers from the ground. Then I was just in time to stop the old alcalde from plucking a bunch of feathers from the bird's breast as I held it in my hands. It later developed that these feathers were tied on sticks & placed at the shrines of their gods in the mountains so that these two town officials "devout Catholics" were thus

betrayed as being worshippers also of the gods of the hills.

I have already noted the fact that for several days before our departure the matin & vesper bells were not rung. Last ev. however, it being known that we were going the vesper bell was rung & this a.m. between 4 & 5 a.m. the matin bell was rung three different times with suchunction that we could but think that it was done as a kind of rejoicing by these unpleasant mountaineers. The town officials also called out their long cries from the borders of the platform.

From the top of the Cerro Pelado which must be close to 16000 ft. alt. we descended through long stretches of mossy oak forest. Here & there for some distance the foot prints of a panther could be seen when it had passed the night before. The descent was steep and at 7000 ft. a decided change began to take place in the vegetation which continued until we reached Totontepec. Before this however a fine rain alternating with dashing showers made the road sufficiently uncomfortable as we dashed through the moisture covered vegetation overhanging the trail. At a little below 7000 ft. I noted a curious bush growing commonly along the roadside. Its flowers are borne close to the tip of the leaves and the seed is a round white berry in the same place. The flora of the Cerro Pelado is much poorer than that on Zempoatltepec but below 7000 ft. on the east slope the number of flowering species is great & thence down to 5500 ft. below Totontepec it is a rich field flora & I suspect in the immediate vicinity of Totontepec

A large no. of species not noted before were seen and many secured.

Late in the P.M. we descended a specially steep clayey road down which our animals slid & slipped on the rain wet surface until we crossed a small stream fording down a series of cascades through beautiful overhanging growths of great ferns & other rank vegetation -

Thence on for a couple of miles, through a drizzling shower, over less precipitous ground brought us to Totontepec. This is a Mije Indian town of several hundred people.

The houses are scattered over a rather steep slope & are in the midst of tall growing corn with a few scattered Avocado & mango trees.

Just back of the town is a huge comb-like rock called the "mitre" from its peculiar shape. Just as we entered the place a dense fog swept up from the low country to the east & everything was hidden from view.

After gossiping about some time I found the alcalde & requested that he find me some place to stay. After great deliberation he

took us to the school house in which we found our quarters while the school master's wife

agreed to board us during our stay.

The house occupied for a school has a few rude benches, a broad table & a low platform on

about which are grouped the belongings of the schoolmaster & on which he & his family sleep.

The dirt floor of the house is rickety with moisture. A great pile of ragged books, papers &c. are cleared

from the table & I am given it to sleep upon.

Meanwhile 15 or 20 villagers hang idly about to see us installed. The teacher is a Japoteco Indian in white cotton clothing - serape & sandals like the

rest of the Indians & his family of 5 small

& remarkably dirty children pervade the place. His wife in her short skirt, low necked, armless chemise & bare feet is a typical indian —

Totontepic, Oax., July 14 to 19th
near ~~near~~

For some days we remained here doing what we could by working mornings & evenings & sometimes in the morning heavy clouds of misty fog came drifting up from the warm country lying immediately below & these misty masses were frequently accompanied by heavy rains so that every day showed rain enough to keep everything damp.

Specimens that were drying nicely at Yacachi have softened up so much from the prevailing dampness here that I have suspended them in a box over the open fire in the hut at one end of the house that serves as kitchen.

For if tile roofed houses occur in the town but nearly all the places are mud- or adobe-walled buildings with steep double-pitched, grass thatched roofs. A heavy wooden door & window shutter of similar make are the only means of entry for light & air. The floor is bare damp earth.

This place has an alt. of 6000 ft. & is on the E. slope of the mts. so that the climate is foggy like that of Jico, Orizaba & other points along this slope where the warm, damp gulf wind strikes. The vegetation here is that of the tierra templada. & a few birds get across here from the drier coast slope.

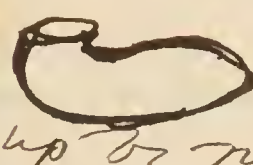
July 20 - Ranch near Totontepic

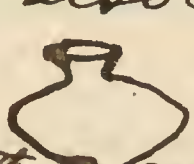
Today we moved about 6 miles below Totontepic to a small indian ranch at an alt. of 3700 ft.

The descent was rapid with a foot path winding down steep slopes. At one place the pack mule was walking near the outer edge of the trail when a block of rock slid off with her causing her to roll down some 20 yds among the bushes. We got the pack down & loaded her in the trail & went along all right until going up a steep place in the trail not far from our destination. There the mule's hind foot sank in a gopher hole, & she pulled back on the rope. Goldman was riding in front leading her & by the sudden stop his horse lost its balance and after a moment slid over backwards into a steep coffee & banana field below, striking back down with Goldman on his back. I expected that the latter would be seriously injured by the fall but the horse rolled on down hill & he escaped with nothing of the sort. I rushed forward to the mule which was lying down in the trail. After a few moments she started to rise but staggered a little, slipped off the trail and rolled down hill for at least 100 yds among the coffee trees & banana plants creating havoc among them to such an extent that the owner promptly claimed damages & I paid him \$2.50 although he wished about five times that amount. It was fortunate that nothing serious happened to any of the outfit during this performance. Half a mile beyond we descended to a small group of coffee trees among some irregular corn & banana fields, then under the shade of some Avocado, Chupon trees & small grass thatched huts. These are closely surrounded by a thick growth of coffee trees and are built on a little shelf-like terrace in the hillside - scattered irregularly.

about the adjacent slopes are various
other similar huts all belonging to
natives of Totontepic who have ranches
here in this warm climate where they raise
bananas, sugar cane, coffee & other tropical
products as well as indian corn. At
Totontepic they raise nothing but corn & beans
but make their main home there owing to
the climate being better. Almost the
entire slope of the mts. on this east side down
to below the ranch where I am now is
denuded of its original heavy forest but
very little of it is now under cultivation. Crops
are grown as long as they do well & when the
land is abandoned a new piece cleared
of timber & planted. As I was leaving town
a large no. of men started out to go down to the
river just below the ranches to search for the body
of an old man who had fallen off a log in
crossing the stream and drowned.
I was rather vexed at a little trait of character
shown by the indians at Totontepic in connection
with this trip. The alcalde had urged me repeatedly
to go down to his ranch at this place & wholly on his
urgent requests I had planned the trip. When I was
about ready to go he began to claim that his rancho
had no place to stay, no people were there who could
give us food & other excuses & then went off
saying he would be back right away. He did
not come back but sent word after he left
town that if I wished to go to his ranch a servant
would show me the road. Rather a cooling off
after having wished so much - in word - to see
him there himself. Exactly the same per-
formance was gone through with by the second
alcalde in regard to his ranch which he
fairly insisted on our visiting until the second

Some probability of our going there, when
he, too, had a very poor wet house not fit to
sleep in & no one living there, &c., &c.
Another thing that I could not but notice among
these people is the rude brutality of their behavior
toward us as strangers. They made a practice
of standing about in front or close by us watching
every motion with great attention and commonly
commenting & laughing uproariously at every-
thing. Six or eight young fellows would hang
about keeping up a stream of "witticisms"
which they made no attempt to hide were
at our expense - laughing immoderately.
We went on about our affairs unmindful of these
animals whose manners I have never seen
equalled among any of the Indians I have
encountered. The place where we camped
was open on two sides & with a thin walling of canvas
set upright. In one corner a few rounded
stones marked the fireplace about which were
grouped various oddly shaped clay
pots with two of the following curious shape:

 This is the same shape as some pots dug
up by me from some old ruins on head of
San Francisco R. New Mex. The object of this shape
was soon shown. Meat or vegetables were put
in the pot & when filled with water the point
was shoved among the coals between two stones
& its opening was thus kept from the fire
& the condition of the contents easily told without
disturbing it as would be necessary with
a pot set over the fire. When the contents are
cooked the outer edge is taken hold of
by the hand or a stick & the pot is drawn back
out of the fire in a moment without

trouble. Were we accustomed to use
open fires such an idea would probably
take a patent as a novel & useful invention.
In an open shed-like front of the hut where
we camped stood a rude wooden cane
press with the two rollers worked by cross handles
at opposite ends of the press which takes two
men to operate. From a neighboring hut all day
long during our stay here the loud creaking of
one of these presses in operation could be
heard with great distinctness.
After a few days of unsuccessful work here
we returned to Totontipe. While at the
rancho it was interesting to see what havoc the
large Geomys are doing here in cutting
down corn or cane in order to eat their
stalks. Stopping at the rancho was a
young woman & little girl. They were here to
watch the cornfields & to cut & eat the corn.
The women of the Miqis everywhere in this
district are to be seen cultivating corn &
weed pulling often quite alone. A large share
of this work appears to fall to their lot. They
also trot along the road carrying back loads though
usually less heavy ones than their men. The
women of Totontipe often carry their babies
astride of one hip & they also carry large black
water jars of this shape  held against the
hip by one arm about the neck of the jar &
the bulge of jar resting on top of the hip against the
hip bone. The body is held quite upright with
the low necked, sleeveless chemise & turban-
like arrangement of the robes they present a
very picturesque appearance as they move
across ones field of vision. The people
of this tribe so far as I have come in contact

with them have a remarkable antipathy
to water used for personal cleanliness.
I saw our "land-lady", the wife of the school-teacher
wiping one corner of her rebozo with saliva one
morning & wiping her face with it which was the
only instance while there that I saw her try to
become clean while the children ran about
day after day without washing.

July 23^d - 25th Totontepec.

On our return here we found the men of the
town being drilled in a ^{costume} dance that they are
to give on a saint's day the 15th of August. The dance
is to be given in front of the church & is in cos-
tume while each dancer has a set speech
to recite after which the dance is performed.
The dance is one of a ~~series~~ ^{number} which are given
by the people of this region as religious
festivals. One is called "El moro" & I was
told that another represented an ancient
drama of one of the old Indian kings or
chiefs of this region. The same oddly
shaped drum that I saw used to call
the people to the market on Sunday was
now used to call together the dancers & to
beat a monotonous r-r-tine for them
to dance to. The dancers were rather
graceful & the steps were simple
the main interest being in the con-
stant & rhythmic changes in position
among the dancers, passing back & forth
by one another. A fiddle is also used
to help along the music of the drum.
The presidente & alcalde here also come
to the terrace in front of the town building

where they call out orders to the people
richer announcing the gathering of the
aguantimints to hear cases or other town
gatherings after the manner seen at
Yacochi except that they do less of it
here & do not make a practice of calling
together for church observances. From the
fact that this place is on the main road
from Choafam to Oaxaca the people have seen
more outsiders & are less shy than the people
of Yacochi but even here there is considerable
distrust of strangers. In the town jail here
they had several prisoners among which
was a deaf & dumb man whose fault lay in
the fact that he had become indebted to the local
store keeper for 2⁵⁰ & not paying was put in
jail. He was imprisoned about 8 or 10 days
after my arrival. A half insane young
fellow was wandering about town & made
a practice of asking for food or fruit or other
thing which he did not pay for. For this he was put
in jail for one night & I saw one of the jail guards
beat him about roughly.

July 26th Choafam - Oaxaca

Today we left town & proceeded across
the mts. to this place at an alt. of 2800 ft.
The distance is about 22 miles with very steep
up & down grades. From Totutitlan the road
takes to a small ridge at about 6500 ft.
where is almost continuous descent to
Comaltitlan about 15 miles from the starting
point. As soon as we reached the top of the
ridge we came to the east slope again where
the forest began again of large oak trees
densely, heavily overgrown with mosses &
lichens with many ~~small~~ ~~plants~~ ~~of~~ ~~various~~

making a nearly impenetrable thicket. On the ground under logs, banks, & roots of trees were many runways of skunks and woodchickens. As we descended the eastern slope from 6000 to 5000 ft. the forest mainly consisted of fine oaks mingled with other trees in smaller numbers. All along the trail were various species of *Malactoma*, *Madroño* & some small alders. At about 5000 ft. the growth of small plants along the opening made by the trail was magnificent. Great masses of *Bigonias* & a fine variety of ferns including tree-ferns some of which have stems 20 to 30 ft. long were abundant. The richness & variety of the vegetation was a continual delight to the eye as the winding trail constantly brought new forms into view and the groupings of beautiful masses of luxuriant foliage was a succession of lovely pictures. The effect was heightened by the wall-like masses of tree-ferns that enclosed the trail and formed the back ground to the many smaller species in the foreground. At about 5000 ft. the oaks were suddenly replaced as the main forest tree by the Liquidambar which came in quite suddenly as a forest belt of magnificent trees many of which were 150 ft. high and 3 to 5 ft. in diameter. The trunk is straight & columnar the branches throwing off high up so that the forest here assumes a more open character. At 4000 ft. we pass out of the forest to a semi-open country covered with scattered trees, bushy patches

and long slopes overgrown with bright green grasses or ferns & low bushes. Some Coffee & Banana patches were passed here & as we came out on the open slope at 3800 ft. I was surprised to see scattered pine trees along ridges & open slopes from this point down to the bottom of the canon toward which we were descending. For the first time we had here long open slopes covered with a brilliantly green coating of grass with scattered pines & oaks - extending from 2000 ft. at Comaltepec up to about 3500 ft. when the trees became more & more abundant quickly covering all of the mts. from there up & becoming a part of the forest through which we had just descended. Like all the main trails in this country the banks were frequently 10 to 20 ft. high on each side showing how the constant use of centuries aided by the water had cut them down. Finally we zig-zagged down to the bank of the loud rushing head waters of the Rio Chichil at Comaltepec at an alt. of 2000 ft. & found ourselves in the midst of guava, orange, lemon, banana, Coffee, Zapote, Nancey, Zapote fruits, Avocado & other tropical fruit trees. Crossing the stream we soon reached the bare little palapa by the church where we rested for a little while then went on over a thatched-roofed bridge of hand hewn planks laid on stringers over the rapids of a tributary stream. At our crossing of the main stream is a foot bridge built by means of a pair of wicker basket 'chissons' - one on each side filled with stones & logs then laid across between these supports. It is a good piece of

work. Leaving the town our road led along the mt. side above the main river & we passed through some pines but mainly through grassy country overgrown with scattered oaks of 2 or 3 species up to about 3500 ft. where the main forest begins. Looking down into the river bottom I was interested to see several of the long leaved, spiny trunked *Potamogeton* growing on a little flat close by which & at the same level

(about 2000 ft.) were numerous pines. Near Comaltepec also we passed, (on road to Chaparral) a roadside shrine & various crosses.

The oaks were the main trees along this part of the route & were scattered like the pines, in very open forest with

from grassy ~~and~~ ~~valley~~ ~~very~~ -
where. At 5 P.M. we reached Chapam &
found it to be a small miserable little
place of probably less than 1000 people.

It is built on a sharply sloping hillside
each house standing on a little shelf of its own.
In regard to the prices I learned

here that they extend toward Playa Vicente
about 12 miles beyond Chocoma.
As we neared town we overtook an indian
woman who surprised me by talking quite

woman who surprised me by talking quite
 freely in Spanish & who showed me to the house
 of the Jefe Politico. I showed my letter to this
 official (this being the head of the Dist.). He was

rather under the influence of strong waters
but expressed his pleasure at my arrival
made the usual protestations of desire to aid me.
After some consultation I was given 9 grains of

in the room used for meetings of the Abolitionists.
Here we arranged our things & the Secretaries of
the Socy agreed to board us while here so

over our comfort was arranged for
but our horses had to go almost without food
as no one would consent to go out after grass
for them & a small amount was all I could
get.

July 27th & 28th Choaquam.

We remained here over these days doing very
poorly in our work & having a most aggravating
time to get anything done. To get the horses watered
& buy grass for them required constant annoy-
ing requests of a lot of idle tufiles' & guards
about the building. It was only after repeated
visits to the Acting Jefe that & complaining of
the omission of the Regidor in charge of the
guards that I succeeded in getting the
necessary services even although I was
paying for them. The people here have each their
small patch of land cultivated to coffee &
corn & as they manage to get a living out of
this they are extremely idle & useless. The fault of
my trouble lay partly with the loose rein held
by the present chief authority (Jefe) who seems
to have to give orders twice & all the valuable
promises he made of assistance on the day
of my arrival as usual evaporated in the
air & I should have had no help or assistance
had I not kept at him. After my complaint of
the lack of service the Regidor asked me if I
had complained to the Jefe & thus made a
bad talk against the community & I told
him I had done so & that I was tired of
asking him two or three times for every service
that I needed while I was paying for everything.
I added that my letter from the Governor

Called on all officials to assist me
& when I asked for any service I wished
it done at the time. This little episode seemed
to wake the Regidor up & during the rest of my
day (28th) I had no further difficulty & the
Regidor even went so far as to send his men
about hunting me flowers.

On the 28th occurred the weekly market
at Choapam but it was a very poor one
with little bring sold except corn, dried fish, &
bananas & tortillas. The only thing of interest
was in the costumes of the women. The men
have the ordinary white loose blouse &
wide trousers of unbleached cotton.
The women have their hair in a braid
behind each ear & then coil it about the
head in the same way as do the women
of Chalulag but without using in it any of the
woolen yarn used at Chalulag. They use
ordinary sandals or go barefooted. On
the head a square red cloth is placed with
one corner thrown back so that it makes
a picturesque toque falling to the shoulder
behind & projecting a little over the forehead.
The common white chlamys is worn reaching
about to the knees in front & a little lower
behind. Under this is a skirt of red cloth
a little darker in shade than the color
of the toque. The skirt is dark red & has
narrow stripes of black or dark blue.
The toque has narrow stripes of white, black
or dark blue. The costume is very attractive
in color & style. — Here I would add that
the dark grayish chlamys of the ripe women
usually has a band ~~of narrow stripes~~ about 3 in.
wide of narrow stripes extending from

The lower hem on each side up over the shoulders & down to hem behind - these stripes are black or dark blue so to contrast with the grayish ground color of garment.



It is an odd thing to note the fact that the men & boys of this region who wear the broad flapping trousers usually roll them up to the thigh when walking any distance, or they are commonly worn with one leg rolled up to the thigh even about town in order to avoid the uncomfortable flapping together of the two legs. Most of the Choapan people ~~men~~ speak more or less Spanish as it has been a central point for the district for a long time. The Chlamys of the Yalalay women has a band of cotton cord worn across in front & back at edge of the neck slit as shown below with loose ends of the cord hanging tassel-like. This evidently being for purpose of preventing the slit from tearing.



July 29 Today we left Choapan after much trouble in getting men & proceeded back on our route to Comatlilpec which is about 8 miles from Choapan & lies at an alt. of about 1900 ft. My stay at Choapan was full of petty annoyances caused by the attitude of rather unfriendly indifference assumed by the President.

The Jeze Politics living here was profuse as usual in offers of assistance but when it came to the point of asking for any trifling service I had to make several requests. My horses were without feed from the eve. of our arrival until about 10.30 the next day in spite of repeated requests & my offer to pay. The Presidente kept promising to send men but did nothing & finally I complained of the matter to the Jeze & finally got some. Soon after the Presidente asked me if I had complained to the Jeze & I said that I had when upon he remarked that it was not well to cast reflections or speak badly of the community in that way. To this I told him very shortly that I brought a letter from the Gov. requesting that I be given needed aid & that I was ready to pay for all services rendered yet I had been unable to get him to do anything despite of repeated requests so had complained. For the rest of my stay I had much less annoyance from this source. The only friendly person in town however was the Dist. Judge who talks fine English & who voluntarily aided me effectually in several ways. The aggravating peculiarity of these people was their peculiarity of demanding pay in advance for the least service. If we needed water or similar service it was pay first & then the water when they pleased. Since there were from 4-6 idle employees or servants (tipplers) about the place all the time the matter was very annoying, especially after the manner in which we have usually been served before entering this State. As it is we are having a poor sample of humanity paraded before us here where we are 90.

at Comaltepec the Presidente had been ordered to make quarters for me &c. by the jefe so on my arrival we were at once installed here while the Presid. & Secy. hurried about & prepared us some dinner. We stayed here until the morning of the 31st -

July 31st Totontepec - When we were ready to leave this morning from Comaltepec the Presidente helped carry our outfit across the stream, which had become swollen during the night, and then just as I was bidding him good by he asked in a half whisper if I could not give him something for a nooning drink. He took a few cents with great satisfaction & the hearty way in which he wished me a pleasant journey & then hurried away toward the nearest mescal shop was amusing. This is a town of about 600 people & like Totontepec has a large church but no Post office. Our long steep climb of 4500 ft. to the divide near Totontepec was hard on our half starved animals. All of the last 2500 ft. was through the forest half hidden in mist & beautifully arranged vistas were opened here & there by breaks in the clouds. Now a burst of sunshine enlightened the gloomy circles & then a heavy mist set everything to dripping.

Aug. 1st 1894 - Totontepec
Remained over here a day to get men to carry part of my outfit in to Oaxaca.

While here I learned of a good example of the way local affairs are carried on. The law of Compulsory education in force throughout the country (supposedly) is neglected here & very few children were attending school. The teacher wrote the Jefe Politico at Villa Alta about this. The Presidente was notified of the complaint & instead of seeing that the children attended properly he at once ordered the teacher put in the jail. The latter was only detained a short time & as soon as released went to the chief town Villa Alta & complained of the matter & the Presidente was called there & after a short hearing was fined \$25.00 for the illegal act of jailing a Gov't employee without proper cause. Had the teacher been a private citizen his chances for redress would have been much smaller although considerable restriction of their acts is necessary where small towns are in the hands of ignorant men who have no idea of their legal limits.

At the markets here & at other towns of larger size in this region peddlers of cloth bring packs on their backs from Oaxaca & make a round from one place to another till sold out. A large share of the freighting from here this part of the state & Oaxaca is done on men's backs. A load is considered to contain 100 lbs. & they will carry this across these extremely rough mts. trails an average of about 18 or 20 miles a day for the sum of 50¢ silver a day during the time they are absent from home. This amounts to 1.00 a day for the time occupied in going to a certain point when no pass

is allowed for the return trip. They usually go in parties of from 3 or 4 to twenty or more. In this manner the coffee of the Choapan district is taken to Oaxaca at a cost of from 2 to 3 cts. a pound.

Aug. 2^d Having obtained 3 men as packers we left Totontepec early this a.m. and started over the trail for Oaxaca. Owing to the used up condition of our animals we found it very hard to work them up the steep trail & our only mode of getting along was to walk ourselves & lead or drive them. One of our packers carried a load of at least 125 lbs. and they marched steadily up the extremely steep trail for over 1500 ft. without stopping to take breath. They perspired freely but seemed to have no trouble with their breath as they kept up an almost continuous talking with one another. They carried the load by means of a broad strap across the forehead.

The trail leading west from Totontepec leads directly across the high ridge of the main range extending to Mt. Zempoaltepec. The ridge has an alt. of 8000 ft. when we crossed it & is covered with a fine forest of large oaks with a heavy undergrowth of various small species similar to those found on the summit of ridge & on N.E. slope above Yecocho. Long olive green ~~moor~~ yellowish mosses trailed down from the branches & a slender, vine-like species of bamboo interlaced in the ~~brush~~ undergrowth of shrubs & large ferns. Passing to the West side of the ridge a short descent took us into the drier climate of that side & the luxuriant growth of the top gave place to a ~~more~~ open forest of smaller oaks with scattered pines & then the

Pinus became an open forest with
very few scattered oaks. The country
became drier & drier & as we descended
we left all signs of recent rains behind
until about Yalalag the country was parched
& the crops a failure from lack of rain.
We managed to reach this place at dark al-
though it required much work to urge our
exhausted animals along the last few miles. As there
was no feed along the road it was necessary that we
make that place. It was about an hour after dark
when we finally arrived & finding the Presidente
in his office were given our former quarters
in an unoccupied school room.

In the morning I went into the Presidente's office
& found him listening to a man & woman
who were evidently complaining of one another
& talked rapidly ~~to one another~~ in Indian.
At first they talked alternately but finally
both became warmed up & each poured
forth a stream of words regardless of one another.
To this confused talk the Presidente sat listen-
ing unmoved & when both parties had talked them-
selves out of breath they stopped & with a
short expression of leave taking both left - evidently
leaving the case to be decided later on.

We laid over here the 3^d to rest our animals
although it was only with great difficulty that
we were able to secure feed for them at enormous
prices.

Aug. 4th

Left Yalalag early this am. & crossing the river at
the same point as on our way out turned up a
trail leading up the point of a high ridge to
the north of the one which we came out from Oaxaca.

on. The trail was very steep & went up in zig-zags from the river to about 5500 ft. & then followed along the top of the ascending ridge - A few pines & oaks were found forming an open dwarfed forest on the and hillslopes above 4000 ft. On all sides of us could be seen rising steep sided ridges & buttresses ascending toward the Zempoaltepec range or toward the high divide to the west toward which we were travelling. At midday we stopped for luncheon in the ~~patio~~ ^{patio} of the ~~Casa Municipal~~ ^{Casa Municipal} in the village of San Francisco. Owing to the used up condition of our animals we were obliged to walk all day. After a short rest we continued on and up the steep ascent all the afternoon until just before nightfall we entered the damper region of the oak forest at about 8000 ft. and made camp at a lonely rancho called the Chrisantha. The woman and children were alone ~~here~~ ^{at home} on our arrival & appeared tolerably friendly but when the man came in during the evening he was surly & made growling remarks to his wife about our using water from the water jar although my men had brought it from the spring. We slept on the dirt floor here & were tormented by fleas all night so that morning was a welcome relief. ~~From~~ ^{From} Gulalaghen is about 16 miles. The alt. 8000 ft. The change from the warm ^{dry} climate of the river bottom to the cold damp woods here is very marked.

Aug. 5th From the Rancho Chrisantha the trail wound up the hill still higher until the top of the first ridge was reached at 9400 ft. There is a small

Shrine built by the roadside here made of
adobe & roofed with a cross in the back of the
room on a ledge made to receive it.
Many little flower offerings were lying
about the foot of the cross & others bound to
the standard beams. From this point the
rise is more gradual until the final
summit at 10500 ft is reached. For nearly
the entire day the way was through a high &
somewhat rolling country that forms the broad
top of the mountain here and the forest is
largely made up of pines of several species. The
oaks reach their upper limit at about
10000 ft. here as elsewhere throughout this
region. Above 10000 ft. the highest points
in this range must reach at least 11000 ft. alt.
& alders, madroños & pines (*Pinus*?) are
the only trees - the two former dropping out
at about 10500. At 4 P.M. we came to the
village of Guajamaloya situated at 10000 ft.
A few potatoes & a little barley are grown here.
This point is the station for a party of guards who
have a house here & are supposed to make the road
secure for travellers by patrolling & otherwise keeping
the robbers from carrying on their profession.
These guards are furnished by the surrounding
villages - each work a certain village giving its
quota & the next week another does so. To pay
their expenses each foot passenger pays
6 cts & each horseman or pack animal
12 cts. toll. The men at the guard house were quite
anxious that we should remain here overnight
but we pushed on and camped ^{at} by the roadside
several miles down the slope toward Oaxaca.
That we did this was perhaps enough to save
our lives for not long after we passed here
a couple of Americans, McSwiney & Hoppe,

Came this route from Oaxaca and stopped overnight at Guajamaloya. The next morning they were waylaid by the Chief of the guards & another native & shot down without warning as they were riding quietly along the road a few miles from the station. McS. was killed instantly but Hoppe was wounded so that he fell from his horse & as he lay on the road kept the robbers off until his pistol failed to work. Then he threw the pistol away & told the robbers to come on & take what he had. They then came in & after punching the wounded man's head with the muzzles of their guns until it was frightfully mutilated they dragged him on to the road & shot him in the head. They then took everything the travellers had & concealed it at different places in the woods. ~~They~~ These murderers were caught soon after & sentenced to death. They gave as a reason for their work that they wished to rob the men & also wished to keep foreigners out of their country. This latter spirit seems to pervade a large part of the inhabitants of Oax. even among some of the higher officials. ^{men} Today we made about 22 miles -

Aug. 6 - Breaking camp early in the morning we travelled down a long ridge covered with fine oak forest with some ~~is~~ in dark cañons on north slope at 9500 ft. The trail was steep & rocky, leading down toward the valley of Oax. which lay out below us with the villages indicated by groups of trees in the otherwise ~~and~~ bare plain. We passed a long string of men & a number of women with back loads of 100 lbs. each of soap, dill or other merchandise on their way to towns in the mts. some of them ^{were} from Totontepec where they had seen us &

hailed us as they passed by. They were making surprisingly good time up the steep trail many of them gossiping & chattering as they went along. In the afternoon we had a light shower of rain in the foothills & another when we got out on the plain. The ~~the~~ rain was not heavy near us but came down in torrents one after another in broad grayish white sheets on various sides blotting out the landscape like solid walls as they travelled slowly down them. We chanced to travel along a line that escaped all but the borders of these showers. The cornfields in the valley bottom were stunted & the thin rolled up leaves show the severity of the drought. The towers of the Cathedral in Oaxaca loomed up as welcome landmarks while we were still far away & it was with great satisfaction that we finally reached the city & so ended our long hard trip.

Aug. 7th to 16th we remained in Oaxaca City trying to get the stock in condition to start out again. At the same time checks were sent to the City of Mex. to be exchanged for Mexican money. During the summer has passed an election for Governor. notices were posted up in all public places announcing the candidacy of the Gov't Candidate & there were even up in out of the way parts of the state such as San Francisco Cajonos but I saw only one notice of the opposition candidate during the entire summer & it was in an out of the way part of the City of Oax. But for this I should not have known that there was any other candidate. Naturally the Gov't. Candidate was elected by a large vote. The new man is Gen. Martin Gonzalez who will replace the present man in Dec. & earlier in the summer a Catholic priest of the town of

Zachila containing some 20000 people in Val. of Olox. was called in to confess a dying man. The man died before arrival of the priest & the latter claiming that he had died in a sinful condition ordered some stout sticks brought had the body stripped & gave it a beating with his own hands thus enforcing a penance. The Methodist missionary made this public in the press & such a scandal was created that the authorities took up the matter & put the priest in jail for a short sentence & he was replaced by another man at Zachila -

Aug. 17th was ready to start early this morning but the man who agreed yesterday to go & help pack our outfit failed to come so I had to lose some time getting another. Finally we got started and travelled across the valley in a N.E. course to the foot of the mts. then up a trail leading up a cañon toward a divide. The burro carrying a portion of our outfit gave out on the road & was unable to get to the summit so we were obliged to stop at a hut on the top of the divide & wait for it to come up in the morning. The night was very raw & cold on top of the divide when a strong wind blew all night. We found shelter in a hut used as a stopping place by travellers on this road while a number of natives on their way to Oaxaca slept on the ground in front of the house. These people began to move about and started on their way to town in the middle of the night. About 2 a.m. our man came along with his burro & shouted that he was ready to go on but we objected to turning out & made him wait until day break -

Aug. 18/94. La Parada, Oax.-
About 6 miles down the north slope of the
mts. at 7800 ft. alt. we came to a small
group of jacal built huts one of which is occupied
by a set of local guards like those on the road at
Guajadalupe. Like the latter they collect toll
of all travellers but do little else. This is a
stopping place long existing on this road &
one where Liebmann, Boncourt, Sumichrast
& other naturalists have visited during their
work in Mexico. I was dissatisfied in finding
the locality an arid one near the lower limit of
pines & oaks. About the divide at 9000 ft. &
over the oaks form a large forest with many
large alders & madroños besides an abundant
smaller vegetation but immediately about
La Parada the trees are stunted & the smaller
growth is that of dry sterile hillsides. We found
very little to encourage work here & only remained
until the morning of the 20th.

On the 18th & 19th a great string of people passed here
carrying loads of oranges & other produce from
the valley to the north 2 days trip into Oaxaca for
the Saturday market day. On the 19th (Sunday)
they came back & many of them stopped here to buy
a drink called "tepache" which is made of
brown sugar, water & other ingredients with
an addition of pulque & fermenting becomes a
rather alcoholic small beer. This is greatly
effected by the Indians who become intoxi-
cated upon it. As we were stopping at the house
where they make this drink & entertain travellers
in a rude way we had the benefit of drunken
people & the noisy chatter of all the transients.
A party would come up half drunk on "aguardiente"

And one of them would purchase a measure of the tepachi - then they would stand & pass interminable strings of compliments to one another each insisting on the other drinking first & sometimes keeping it up for fifteen minutes before one would drink any. The men were commonly accompanied by their wives & the women often came in & bought drink which they took out to their men, the latter giving them a portion after drinking themselves.

Aug. 20 - This A.M. we prepared to leave & hired a couple of men to carry a part of our load into the mts. When all loaded up & ready to start I was accosted by a Mexican who had come up meanwhile & was taking coffee here. He asked in a tone of great authority if I had a license to go into the woods & mts. I thereupon asked who he was & he replied with great importance "Soy el hijo del General Mexcalero" & then demanded to see my license which I told him I had. I told him it would be done with pleasure but that my letter from the Governor was in my bag already packed on the mule & it would be considerable trouble to unpack it. Ignoring this he again repeated his demand & knowing that he was merely desirous of officious annoyance because I was a foreigner I turned my back upon him & paid no further attention to him. Going back of the house for my horse I returned & found he was talking in a low tone to one of my men. Finally we got off & later in the day I learned from the man that the meddling in the morning had tried to prevent his going with us showing his malicious desire to make us trouble without the least shadow of reason as we

had never seen him before & he could have
had no proper motive for his actions. This
is a sample of many people's attitude toward
foreigners in this state even among a class who
should be more liberal. We went back
along the road toward the divide & then
turned up the mt. side through the woods.
When well up on a ridge leading to the
right of the road we saw our "son of General
Drex." This companion spurring at a gallop
up the ascent along the main road
evidently trying to overtake us under the
supposition that we had gone that way.
During all the rest of the day we worked our
way slowly up ridges toward the high part of
the mts. north of Oaxaca City known as the
"Cerro San Felipe". In the afternoon we came
to a little valley at 9200 ft through which a
small stream trickled. Here over 100 small
log troughs were scattered over the ground
& a ruined hut on one side were the remains
of an ice maker's place or "neveria". Water
was put in the troughs during cold weather in
winter & the then covering of $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch taken
off every morning & stored in underground
grass thatched places until taken to sell
in Oaxaca. At this place our men
stopped claiming they had agreed to go only
to this point. Finally I managed to get them
to go on & a little before night we came
to the crest of the ridge overlooking the val.
of Oax. Here at 10000 ft. the oak forest
ceased & the characteristic species of
small coned pine occupies the sum-
mit up to the highest point of 11000 ft.

In the bottom of a small gulch down, which runs the road we found a fine clear spring. Beyond this we looked in ~~the~~ vain to find the meadow we expected to camp in & finally camped at night on a high ridge close to the spring. Grass is plentiful all about in the open woods & flowers are abundant.

Aug. 21. Remained in our camp all over today while my assistant went down to the nearest village to present our letter & get permission from the local authorities to camp on the mt. as we were on their community lands. In the eve. he returned having obtained the necessary permission but was told that we would have to pay for any flowers or plants which we collected for botanical specimens. We had the privilege of pasturing our stock on the herbage free of any charge but must pay if we wished to make any specimens. This absurd idea we ignored & made such specimens as we needed. During the day we found that the meadow we were in search of was about a mile from our camp & prepared to move down there tomorrow. Our present camp is on a point overlooking a lake-like val. 1000 ft. below to the north where a "reserva" that is now used to supply Oax. with ice - is located while in the opposite direction the view is a fine one out over the val. or Oax. with its streams & towns to the sea of duty beyond that extend to the horizon. At night we could see the

sharp gleaming of electric lights in
the city ten miles away & far below us -
(5800 ft.)

Aug. 22 Today we moved
camp down into a beautiful parklike
meadow at 9200 ft. Our tent was
pitched under a couple of tree alders
in the midst of a lux. growth of grasses
& flowering plants, & close to a clear cold
stream of water that winds down the meadow
& then dashes down the mt. side in rapid
& cascades to the valley. Above us on the
high ridges are the pines, while all about
are oaks, Madroño, alders. Firs are very
scarce in these mts. occurring only on
st. slopes of a few cold canons.

Aug. 23^d to 31st

Camp at meadow on Cerro San Felipe -
During this time we remained at this
camp securing many birds, mammals &
plants. The rain here is plentiful here
& flowers are very abundant as shown by
those taken, especially from 7000 to 9500 ft.
Rains & fogs were common at our
camp but the heaviest rainfall was
at about 7000-8500 ft on the mt.
side. One day while here we were some-
what startled to see a dozen men armed with
guns come into the meadow & toward our camp.
At first glance I thought we might be in for a
visit from robbers. They proved however to be
the men out from the town of San Felipe
patrolling their lands to guard against

Cattle-thieves & robbers. They hung about
camp for a couple of hours expressing
much good natural curiosity in our work &
then headed by the Presidente left for town.
The next day two ^{armed} men appeared near our camp in
the morning but made a detour past it &
their actions were so suspicious that we waited
until dark & then concealed our horses in
the woods some distance from camp. These men
came into camp the next day & claimed to be
hunters from a town in the valley west of the mt.
They asked about the patrol of the day before &
were undoubtedly without any right to be on these
lands. They killed a couple of javas while
on the mt. which I purchased & we saw no more of
them. Camping near us were 3 men burning char-
coal who killed a couple of skunks during our stay
here. They ate the flesh as a great delicacy -
During the last week of Aug. hosts of migrating
warblers from the north were found wander-
ing through the ^{oak} woods in bands accompanied
by Sitotragus miniata, Dendrocolaptes? Cassidix
and Troglodytes ruber. Squirrels were rather common
& were found both on pine & oak trees. They
were found by going about cautiously & watching
under trees where freshly gnawed acorn shells
or pine cones were lying about. When the
squirrels were in the tree one had to wait only a
few minutes to see the fragments falling from the
place where the squirrel was ensconced -
At one huge pine I shot at the spot where a squirrel
tail hung over the side of a branch & was surprised
to see 3 squirrels racing about in the top.
They ran down & leaped into adjacent trees
but by quick shooting I secured all of them.

Rabbits were represented very sparingly by H. rime-
crucis). A gray fox & a Coyote were taken close
to camp & in a trail through the heavy woods we took
a fine specimen of tiger cat. Syntherisma satoris
was rather common & gave a nightly concert of
curious hooting cries. They were particularly noisy
at day break & tried unsuccessfully to talk them
through the wet frosty grass but wet feet were
the only rewards obtained. When surprised by day in
their retreats in the dark cañons shaded by
large oaks they are not so shy. The wonderful variety
of wild flowers at this locality was a con-
stant source of pleasure. The meadow about
us was covered with them on every hand
through the aisles of the forest along the
rounded slopes of the mt. summit were
myriads of beautiful flowers. The same
was the case all down the slope nearly
to the valley. The fairly finished rock here
~~& returned to Dax City. Several~~
Mr. Pringle with his best came up & passed a
couple of nights with us at camp adding to his
already large collection from this place—
after our return to Dax City he was ordered
not to come back to the mt. any more by the Presidente
of San Felipe & the latter was very peremptory
about it. When Mr. P. asked if he should see the
Gov. & get letters the Presidente said it
made no difference if he saw the Gov. he could
not return to carry away any more getting
flourish. P. saw the Gov. in Dax. & the latter sent
for the Presidente & told him not to interfere
with him any more but despite this the
natives refused to let P. pass on his next trip

During summer of 1894 a small independent paper was started at Oax. City its editor being a Cuban who has lived in New York for some time & speaks good English. During the summer an article was copied in this paper from one of the City of Mex. papers criticising the action of the Oax. authorities for their so called unjust settlement of some mining question. The editors of this paper were at once arrested & put in jail for the crime of "Injuries against the Government". Meanwhile the authorities had the editors of the paper in Mex. arrested but they were promptly tried & acquitted. This had no influence on the fate of the prisoners in Oax. who were kept in jail some weeks & finally let out after their paper published a rather object article disavowing any idea of criticising the Governor (Gregorio Chavez) & stating that they were satisfied of his justice as well as that of Gen. Diaz & that toward the latter they had the greatest friendship & if he considered they had done wrong they were willing to take their punishment. Their idea all along had been that the ~~unjust~~ unjust settlement of which the article complained had been the work of subordinates &c. &c.

So that the Jefe sent the Capt. of mounted Police with him as escort on his next trip and after that the fanatical natives let him alone. The last of our stay many of the nights were clear & so cold that a white frost was on the grass in the morning. Clouds came boiling over the hill tops from the east every day & often enveloped all the top of the mt. and a smart shower dashing down with a loud rushing sound of a torrent over the forest was common in the afternoon. The sun would come out again brilliantly by evening & soon after dark the sky was clear & filled with a brilliantly glittering display of stars. This kind of almost daily occurrence. Finally we completed our work & returned to Oaxaca City on Sept. 1st -

Sept. 2^d to 8th we remained at Oaxaca City collecting in the surrounding valley and preparing for a trip to the mts. on the west side of the valley of Oax. Among the interesting things taken was a small opossum from the hill of ruins west of the City known as Monte Alban and some yellowish colored neotomas.

On Sept. 9th we packed up & on the 10th of Sept. left Oaxaca in the afternoon - crossing the valley in a S.W. course for some 8 miles we reached the town of Cuilapa where we were hospitably received by a native missionary belonging to Mr. Smith's mission. This is one of the old Zapotecan towns & in the churchyard here is buried a Zapotecan princess whose

On road from Oax. to Cuilapá are some huge
pecan trees

Ortíz was romantic - It appears that
the valley of Oax. was first occupied solely
by Zapotecos Indians but at last a part of the
Mixtec tribe forced their way in & occupied
the top of the Monte Alban where they built a town &
fought & successfully withstood the attacks
of the valley people. Finally they succeeded in
defeating the Zapotecos & secured the daughter
of their king as a hostage - she being from the
town of Zachi in the valley - & they kept
her a prisoner on Monte Alban in sight
of her home. Finally the princess learned the
habits of the town's people & succeeded in
sending her father word that if he would attack
the village late at night he would surprise
the sleeping Mixtecos & conquer them. A night
attack followed but by some mischance was a
failure & the Zapotecos retired badly defeated.
The Mixtecos suspecting their prisoner of some
complicity in this put her to death at once &
then in order to deprive her people of any possible
chance to recover her body she was buried
in the bottom of a stream, in the valley which
was turned out by channel temporarily for
the purpose. At no very distant date the
country was conquered by the Spaniards &
when the Mixtecos were made Catholics the
priests caused them to reveal the secret burial
place of the princess & she was removed to the church
at Cuilapá. The town of Zachi was once the
center of the political power of the Zapotecos
as Omitla was the religious headquarters.

Sept. 11th Leaving Cuilapá in
the morning we continued across the valley about
5 miles to the base of the mts. up which we

followed a good trail to the village of Santa Ynes at 7000 ft. then we found some apple orchards bearing abundantly. At this place we hired a man to take us to the ranch of the Herrera family on top of the mt. known as the "Neveña". Proceeding up we found the scrubby oaks about Sta. Ynes giving place to larger trees & scattered pines. At the summit of the divide 9500 ft. the oak forest was fine & open with myriads of fine wild flowers everywhere. Among these the yellow & purple dahlias and a magnificent purple Salvia were conspicuous. Out top of the divide under some broad oaks on a grassy spot is a large cross marking the corners of 4 township lands. Under the oaks are some rude benches & table frames of sticks where the people of the 4 adjacent towns have the custom of holding a market fair during Easter week each year. Passing this place we descended the west slope a couple of miles through a mixed forest of oaks & pines to the border of a beautiful mountain park where some log huts at the upper end showed the ranch of the Herreras. Just then our guide hailed us from a little distance & came up with a magnificently formed young indian woman who walked with erect head & a graceful carriage most attractive in its natural grace. She came up & held out her hand with unexpected frankness & invited us to go to the house where she would return in a few minutes as soon as she could complete some work she was doing. We went down to the house & there found 3 other women & some children. These women were a little more

Shy but when we proposed to go out to the edge of the forest to camp they would not consent insisting on our occupying one of their cabins saying that if we camped in the woods we might be killed by the patrol from the town to which these lands belong. A place was cleared for us & we moved into a small cabin which proved a much better shelter than our tent could have been during the rains that were common here -

Sept. 12th to 18th Remained at

the 'Nevada Hermit' - This meadow is at an alt. of 9200 ft. & is surrounded by the forest that covers all the top of the mt. On the N. side the forest is an open one of pines while to the south only oaks with a few scattered pines occur. The under growth is abundant under the oaks among which occasional huge oakliars of rich red & crimson flowers growing eight to ten ft. high are notable. Another remarkable plant is the Clematis which grows as a huge vine on the tallest oaks. These vines hang from the large branches often 60-80 ft. from the ground & then spread out over the top of the tree from which they send down showers of white petals with the passing breezes. A shrub 8-12 ft. called the Jasmin by the Nations is strongly odoriferous & grows in these same woods - At an opening on a south slope I found a large patch of red Pentstemons when scores of humming birds of several species were frantically every day. Migrating birds were trooping through the woods in bands now filling the trees with song.

forms & call notes & then a double silence seemed to reign until the next group passed. Squirrels were very numerous among the oaks here & had the habit of racing away through the tree tops on one's approach so that it was exciting sport to hunt them. Scarcely one could be secured without a hard chase through the undergrowth & a snap shot at the agile form darting through the leaves & branches overhead. Often it required several shots before one was brought down. All about on this mt. top the same richness of vegetation was noted as on the Cerro San Felipe but a considerable number of species are peculiar to each mt. despite their proximity. San Felipe is a part of the Cordillera of the East extending south from Mt. Orizaba while the present range forms a branch range from the Cordillera extending southeast from Central Guerrero.

During our stay at the Mucina the women were busy herding their sheep and goats but one of them was usually kept about the house making tortillas. One of the boys went with me on a trip through the woods to show me the lay of the land and was an excellent guide. Throughout our stay we were treated in a very hospitable manner & this was so different from what we had been accustomed to receive from Indians in this state that it was especially agreeable. These people are protestants & it may be owing to that fact that they were more friendly. The Catholic Indians of this region are suspicious & unfriendly to foreigners. While out in the woods one day my asst came across two men from a town down the mt. They were gathering mint & said it was to use

at a wedding. Our man said that it is the custom at weddings among the natives of the Valley for the drunken men to hold nosegays of mint which they smell constantly. For this purpose a couple of men always go to the mts. for a supply just before a wedding - my man is from Zuchila & does not give a very flattering account of his townsmen. He claims that they are constantly quarrelling with one another & although they often lose crops from lack of rain while a stream flows through the valley they could use for irrigating yet they cannot utilize it because no one will permit a neighbor to take water across his land. He says the ripening corn has to be watched day & night to keep it from being stolen & the watchmen themselves often steal from their neighbors patches if they get the chance -

Robberies were so common in Zuchila a few years ago that a local law was made not permitting anyone on the streets after 10 at night without a ~~per~~ written permit. Anyone found out late is arrested & held until morning at least.

The husband of one of the women at the Mesita was in jail at Zimatlán during our stay there & it appears he used a knife on some one in a drunken row some months ago & is now paying for it.

The woman spoke of it as a unfortunate matter of ordinary occurrence like a fit of sickness or any other common affair. Being put in jail is regarded as of no particular disgrace by most of these people many of whom laugh about being locked up for drunkenness or other petty crimes as a kind of joke & speak of it in the most matter-of-fact way. When the time came for us to leave the Mesita the mother of the two large girls here with the young young woman who had

met us in the woods on our arrival accompanied us a mile or more to where the trail from the ranch entered the main road. There they bade us good by & urged us to come & stop with them again if we came in that vicinity again.

We descended the mt. slowly descending as we went and crossed the valley during the afternoon & evening reaching Oax. at 9 P.M. I rode ahead of the outfit & kept my hand on my revolver much of the way after dark, mindful of the tales I had heard of robberies along this road at night. We met no adventure however & reached town safely—

Sept. 20th - 30th Oaxaca City.

Remained at this point doing further work in the vicinity & attending to reports & other necessary matters. On the 1st of Oct. we prepared to start but one of the horses was so lame that we had to put it off until the next day —

Oct. 2^d.

Left Oaxaca early in the morning and travelled slowly along the valley to the north. Many autumn flowers are now out such as Solidagos & other Compositae & several handsome Salvias were conspicuous along the wayside with many others. Lark finches are here in force from the north with a few chipping sparrows. Red tailed Hawks so on over head & a number of Sparrow hawks were seen along the telegraph poles. We kept near the R.R. all day with the road very boggy in many places owing to recent rains.

Toward evening the valley narrowed & became full of rolling limestone hills among which we found the town of San Francisco Huizgo which is about 22 miles from Oaxaca. One of our mules proves to be so old & used up that we have the greatest trouble in getting her along. Found a stopping place in a meson at Huizgo but no vacant rooms were found & we should have slept on the ground in the corridor but for a native mission teacher here who kindly gave us the use of his school room -

Oct. 3^d. From Huizgo we continued along the road northwest for about 19 m. to a small place called the Cieneguillo which we reached at dark after an excessively hard day with the old mule. In the afternoon we found a camp of the catties whose owner had a lot of mules & we managed to arrange a trade with him & get rid of the useless old creature that has troubled us so much. We have 2 saddle horses & 3 pack mules with a young fellow from Zachila as named Lorenzo as servant & packer. He travels on foot. About 6 miles N. of Huizgo we left the valley of Oax. and ascended the hills which come down from the main range to the east. All along the valley the country is dry & belongs to the arid Lower Sonoran but the ridge on top of the hills we crossed here is at 8000 ft. alt & covered with oaks belonging to upper Sonoran. Just below this ridge lies the place where we camped.

Oct. 4th Leaving Cuernavilla we made about 74 miles all down grade to the village of Dominguito where we stopped for the night. This latter place is a sleepy Indian village once of some importance while the City of Oax. was supplied with outside goods by freight trains along the road we have been travelling. This is the best built & graded wagon road I have seen in Mexico. It was finished only a few yrs. before the R.R. at great expense & now is unused except for an occasional traveller or the local travel between villages. In settling my hotel (meson) a/c at tonight's stopping place I had a practical illustration of the inability of the women of this country to figure up items. The woman where we stopped made up the a/c with an amount slightly in excess of the true bill & when I refigured it to show her error she replied "I do not know anything of all that but the a/c is so much" repeating her figures so I paid & went on. This failing is common among women keeping small shops & mesones & they are given to make an excess a/c & sometimes when they are forced to take the proper amount they act as if they thought they were being deprived of some just due.

Oct. 5 Today I sent the outfit on to Cuicatlan while I took the train 8 m. below Dominguito & returned to Oax. in order to get money enough to continue the work as the purchase of the new mule used up my cash. As soon as this was secured I returned to Cuicatlan by train where

I joined the outfit the next day -

Oct. 6th - 13th Remained at

Cuicatlan working the valley & neighboring foothills. This place is located at about 1800 ft. in a narrow valley bounded by high mts. reaching 10000 ft. to the east & 8500 ft. to 9000 ft. on the west. Its climate is very hot & dry. A small river flows down the valley & seeks the sea through a great gorge in the Cordillera of the east. The hills about the valley sides are covered with a thin growth of cacti & various plants of an arid tropical & Lower Sonoran climate. The town like most places in this region is sleepy. A few small stores each with several clerks or members of the owner's family to attend to the custom. It is the custom throughout Central & southern Mex. for the small stores to have several people to attend to the custom despite the fact that the entire stock is usually valued at only a few hundred dollars & sometimes a clerk will represent each 100 dollars worth of stock. This is accounted for in a measure by the fact that the vast majority of purchases are made in quantities ranging from 1 to 6 cts. so that a great rush of people for an hour in morning & again in the eve. will make numberless little transactions. During the middle of the day the clerks utilize spare time by making up scores of little conical packets of coffee, sugar, spices &c. in penny ~~packets~~ lots to save time when the customers arrive. All over the country it is the custom to buy food in lots sufficient only for the day at most & more frequently for only a single meal. Even in the fondas or small Cafes it is an ordinary thing for them

to send out for bread or eggs or other article ordered after one ~~and~~ is seated at the table. At Cuicatlan we found lodging at the house of a storekeeper with one of the little shops whose whole outfit could be purchased for \$500. He devoted his own time to this business & had a young man as clerk while his wife & sister spent a large share of their time in the store. In the house they gave employment to an indian woman as tortilla maker or "molindera" & two other indian women served as cooks & general servants with a boy to run errands & wait on the table. During market days the town is filled with indians from all the outside villages. They are "Cuicatecos" speaking a dialect of the mixteco(?). They ^{men} wear the same white cotton clothing that is universal with the indians of central mex. & the women dress like those at Oaxaca. The town takes a general siesta in the afternoon from about 12 or 1 to 3 P.M. & in the evening there come out & sit in the street at the front of their houses or ~~sanctos~~ about & gather in small groups to gossip. The women make calls on one another or sit in their windows behind bars of wood or iron and talk to friends among the passers by who halt to chat while they stand about on the rough pavement. A little later & the doors are closed & barricaded from within by bolts & huge wooden bars & anyone knocking must tell who he is & what he wants before the door is opened & if he chances to be a stranger the door will remain closed -

The two young women of the family were inclined to be very friendly & took occasion to talk with us whenever the man or his wife were not about but skulked away whenever the older people appeared as if detected in some offence. The man of the house here is a Spaniard of long residence at this place but has a remarkably limited amount of information on the most ordinary subjects. This is a common matter however in a country where so few of the people pay any attention to affairs outside their little town & newspapers are so little patronized. The vast majority of the people scarcely realize the fact of a central gov't but seem to be limited to the district in which they live. Beyond that everything has a vague & uncertain outline. The common people are constantly referring to "mi tierra" or my land & this always refers to the village where they live & when they ask us their stock question of how far it is to my land they always mean the town & not the country I come from. When asked of what tribe he belongs to the Indians & most natives reply by giving the name of their village. The Jefe Politico here is an intelligent man, one of the exceptions among the Oaxaca Jefes I have met. From him I secured a letter to the Presidente of the mt. village of Reyes Papalo ten miles east of Cuicatlan and on the 14th of Oct. proposed to go up there.

On Oct. 15th we left Cuicatlan but about half an hour out of town while going up the steep rocky trail one of the mules

lost its footing and fell over a cliff 30 ft. high. I was ahead & when I saw the animal disappear & heard her strike with a crash below expected to find a dead mule. Fortunately she struck first on the pack thus breaking the force of the blow. However she was disabled by a blow on the shoulder so I had to take her back to town where she was left & the other two mules went on with their load & the next day one was brought down for the rest of the outfit which I accompanied up to Reyes. The trail is very steep all the way to Reyes which is at an alt. of about (7400 ft.)

Reyes Oct. 17th to 23^d we remained at this place working the vicinity & up to the summit of the highest peak on this part of the range. This has an alt. of 10000 ft. & is known locally as the Sierr Negro or Volcan Negro although there is no signs of its ever having been a volcano as it is composed of gneiss. Sandstone Conglomerate forms the rocky sides of the valley at Cuicatlan & is succeeded by quartzites & gneiss above. The north end of Oaxaca valley is limestone succeeded by gneiss & quartzites as one descends the road toward Cuicatlan until the red sandstone conglomerate is reached at about 4500 ft alt. About the houses in Reyes are orchards of English walnuts which yield rather small but well flavored nuts which form a considerable source of income to the people. They are taken to Cuicatlan & sold for 56 to 62 Cts. a thousand. While I was at Reyes I bought a few nuts but the people would

sell none cheaper than 75 cts. per m.
I asked the reason for this since they
carried the nuts 10 miles down the mt.
and sold them at not more than 62 cts.
They admitted that the regular price in
the market at Cuicatlan was as stated
but said that when anyone came to their
house to buy anything he must pay more for it
than in the market as he wished to make the
purchase while in the market the owner
wished to sell. On this reasoning they abso-
lutely refused to sell me some nuts at the
Cuicatlan price although admitting that they
would have to take them there & sell
at the price offered. The curious mental
processes of these Indians is well exem-
plified in another curious case which
occurred to a friend of mine in the city
of Guadalajara who went into the market
to purchase some oranges. Approaching one
of the native market women who had about
as many oranges as he desired he asked
her what she would take for her entire
stock. She at once replied that she did not
sell the oranges that way but he could
have four for six cents. He replied
that he wished more than that & wished
to buy all she had. At this the woman
shook her head decidedly & replied
"no se venden asi" They are not sold
that way & would not treat with
him any further evidently suspicious
that something must be wrong with a
person desiring to buy out a woman's
entire stock at once —

In the trading with the people in most parts of Oaxaca the silver quarters of a dollar are counted 2 reales & one real is 12 cts. It is a common custom for the stores to change a quarter & give you 24 cents for a quarter or 12 cts worth of goods & 12 cts in change. The common people do the same & a great number of them will figure a 25 cent piece as 24 cts. & demand another penny when you pay them in money including a quarter. Some of them have learned that a quarter has 25 cts. & I have heard them turn to others, near by & ask if the quarter just given them contained 25 cts. There is much counterfeit money in circulation throughout the country & in paying people they always ring the silver on some hard surface to test the sound & then examine its surface for marks & if a slight nick or dent occurs in it they hold it back promptly & refuse to accept it. This supercaution is very annoying in many places in remote districts where money that readily passes in all towns will be refused again & again for some trifling mark on its surface. At the same time one is constantly having bad money given him in change at stores elsewhere which judging from the number of leaden or other spurious coins that have passed through my hands I should judge that a vast total of counterfeit money is in regular circulation throughout the country. Many of the pieces show signs of much wear & have

evidently been in use many years. Its abundance is also testified by the sight of two or three counterfeit coins nailed to the ledge of ticket windows at R.R. ticket stations & similar places through the country as a kind of scarecrow to keep other money of the kind from being offered. At first one is a little inclined to feel offended when he sees every clerk ring his dollars on the counter & often suspect their edges but he soon becomes used to it & is forced to a somewhat similar protection method to avoid being overloaded with bad coin. Paper money is used to a small extent in the larger towns & can usually be exchanged for silver with merchants at smaller places of a few thousand people but it is only the most intelligent native dealers or Spaniards who will handle it. For this reason it is necessary that one takes a good supply of silver on long trips into remote parts of the country. While at Reyes the Presidente came in to the "Curato" as they termed the community house where we stopped and by his speech & actions showed that he was drunk. He talked offensively until my patience gave out & I told him to stop bothering me or I would complain of him to the Jefe Politico & have him put in jail. At this he went away grumbling & I saw no more of him for a day. When he came about after this he had a hangdog look as though ashamed of his performance. Before I left he came to the house with 6 or 8 of the head men of the town & asked me to pay for stopping there. As I had brought letters to him

from the jefe ordering him to furnish
me all necessary assistance & as
such a demand for the privilege
of stopping in the community house of a
village is a species of extortion not custom-
ary I refused to pay. About an hour after
dark each eve. the school teacher here went to
the front of the platform or terrace on which the
church stands and gave a ^{long} loud call. The boys
of the village then trooped up to the front of the church
& there as the evening bells were rung the
shrill high pitched voices of the boys rang
out in a hymn to the Virgin. The song
was chanted first by the teacher or a
boy leader & then repeated by the
choir. The view from this point is a fine
one down the sloping walls of the Cañon to
Cuicatlan 5000 ft. below and across
& beyond the Cañon over the great extent of
Barran mts. covering the Mixteca Alta
& away into Southern Puebla. A few
showers & ~~constant~~ daily cloudiness
about the summit of the mts. mark the end
of the rainy season here. The forest on
top of the mts. is a magnificent growth of
oaks from 7000 to 9000 ft. then come
in the pines thence to summit at 10000 ft.
The forest is much heavier & shows more
signs of abundant moisture than about
San Felipe although of the same general
character. Down on the east slope it is
said to become very heavy & to form
a dense growth of oaks, liquidambar &c.
Below 5000 ft. when numerous pieces of
land are being taken for coffee growing.

It is a part of the same ^{coffee} belt that extends from Motzorong to Choapam & head of the Rio San Juan —

~~Pass~~ The hot moist lowlands of the east slope sent up masses of vapor which covered the mt. top & drifted out over the Cañon of Cuicatlan every day from about 9 a.m. In the eve. these clouds vanished & the nights were again cool & brilliantly clear except on one occasion when it rained slightly. At about 6000 ft. on the w. slope the influence of the moist upper climate was nearly gone & at 5000 ft. Oaks & scattered pines were dwarfed & few. At 4000 the cold tropical comes in. The jefe of this district tells me that the pines range below 2000 ft. on the e. slope of these mts. as they do near Choapam & no doubt belonging to the same species.

~~Oct. 7th Returned to Cuicatlan~~

While at Reyes I made a trip to the summit of the peak & being out longer than I expected I became hungry & finding some berries of a shrub of an apparently harmless species ate heartily of them. I then proceeded slowly down the mt. About an hour after I had eaten the berries I felt a slight lightness of the head but paid no attention to it. I got off my horse to get some plants when I began to feel a tightness over the eyes & a slight pain in back of my neck realizing that this must be the effect of the berries I tried to vomit them but could get rid of but few. I then arose

from a stooping position to go to my horse when I suddenly lost my sight as though all vision had been blotted out. An instant later I could appreciate the light but every object could only be seen as a formless blur. Managing to get to my horse I mounted & hurried him down the mt. trail toward town nearly 2 miles below. The dimness of vision continued while a band seemed to be drawing ever tighter about my forehead & the pain in the back of my neck was excessive. No signs of nausea & no giddiness or loss of mental clearness was experienced. I reached the house & managed to feel my way in & had my assistant get some warm water & mix salt with it. By the aid of this I got rid of the barriers & after an hour recovered my vision. Then followed an hour or two of sinking & cold perspiration after which I recovered & was all right the next day.

On the 24th Oct. we descended the mt. to Cuicatlan and spent that day & the 25th working on material brought down. The contrast is striking between the aridity here & the abundant plant life on the mountain.

Oct. 26th Left my outfit at Cuicatlan while I went up to Oaxaca to get check sent to Mexico to be cashed & attend to other necessary business before starting for the coast.

Oct. 27th to Nov. 6th, 1894.
Oaxaca City—

